

(Translated from the French)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MAE)
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (DGCID)
DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND UNIVERSITY COOPERATION (DCSU)**

“Charcot” Medical Excellence Grant Programme

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2007-2008

1 – Background :

This medical training programme is part of the policy of attracting overseas elites, including non-French-speakers, to France and the international opening-up of French institutions, increasingly supported by local authorities. There is a need to create sustainable institutional partnerships both among French partners and their opposite numbers in other countries, in order to establish platforms and future consortia.

A national steering committee meets once a year at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to define the conditions for the award of these grants and track progress.

Management of the grants is entrusted to the CNOUS (National Student Support Centre).

2 – Objectives :

* **Develop a one-year excellence programme of training through clinical research, excluding patient care, for junior teaching researchers from abroad**, with experience in their speciality and a promise of a preferably university-level teaching post on their return to their home countries.

* **Encourage regional synergies in France for major hospital and university priorities**, as defined jointly within each region and formalised institutionally in agreements between teaching hospitals (*CHU Centre hospitalier universitaire*), universities and medical schools, supported in some cases by a local authority.

This requires a focus on **priority countries**, and within those countries on **priority excellence institutions** in order to achieve a certain “critical mass” of future decision-makers. These geopolitical priorities must be decided jointly for the long term by the university and teaching hospital.

Since the training is based on clinical research, **with no responsibility for patient care in French teaching hospitals**,¹ priority will be given to English-speaking applicants (although excellent French-speaking candidates will not be excluded) in order to attract them to France.

The priority countries are:

- **emerging or transition economies** : China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Russia and Turkey,
- **new European Union member-countries** : Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
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3 – Main selection criteria :

- **Age** : practising specialists under 40 years of age;
- **Prerequisites** : recently appointed teaching researcher or due to be appointed on return to home country;
- **Selection** : a regional scientific committee, comprising hospital and university representatives in each region, will select applicants supported by a letter of recommendation from the corresponding establishment outside France with a view to sustainable partnership;
- **Knowledge of French** : since the main criterion is the professional excellence of the applicant and their institution, two types of applicant are eligible for MAE grants, those speaking little French but good English, so as to increase the attractiveness of our

¹ A Charcot grant cannot be combined with a salary from a teaching hospital.

institutions, and those speaking sufficient French on arrival to follow the training. Extra points will be given for an applicant who is coming to France for the first time (“Level 1”).

Careful professional selection one or two years in advance may enable the applicant to invest in learning French with support from the French Embassy’s SCAC (Co-operation and cultural action section), if the teaching researcher is sure of coming to France for a year’s training.

Applicants’ CVs, ranked by priority, should be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with a **letter jointly signed by the Dean of the medical school and the Director General of the teaching hospital** detailing any further resources supplementing the MAE grant to be provided by partners in France or abroad (teaching hospitals, medical schools, universities, local authorities, private companies, charities, foundations, etc.) or by the applicants themselves. Links with the new Ministry programme ARCUS (Regional Initiatives of Academic and Scientific Co-operation) will be appreciated.

A stand-by list of two or three applicants should be chosen, in case the successful applicant withdraws.

4 – Grant details :

- **Duration** : the grant is awarded for a maximum of 12 months starting on 2 November 2007 and ending at all events on 30 October 2008. The MAE grant is non-renewable.
- **Training** : a written agreement, with effective mentoring, will define in detail the project for training by clinical research (**with no responsibility for patient care**), with participation in a hospital clinical research protocol (PHRC or other), with or without a non-renewable qualifying course (master’s, PhD) or post-doctoral study.
- **Visa** : the procedure to be followed is application for a **SCIENTIFIC visa** (not Student or OMI) to be approved by the senior defence official (HFD).
- **Value** : the MAE grant is €1,433 per month, and travelling expenses are borne by the grantholder. The holder will also enjoy the status of **French government grantholder (BGF)**. In some cases, the MAE grant may be partial, depending on supplementary funding.
- **Evaluation and monitoring** : the grantholder will produce an end-of-traineeship report and his/her supervisor will forward copies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the CNOUS.
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5 – Procedure :

In 2007-2008, a total of 20 grants are offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 for each programme partner region: Alsace, Aquitaine, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Rhône-Alpes and Ile-de-France.

Application forms from each region (applicant’s CV, telephone and e-mail, and joint university-hospital letter) should be sent by 15 May 2007 to :

Ministère des Affaires étrangères – DGCID-DCSU/U/UM

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Further information may be obtained from

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